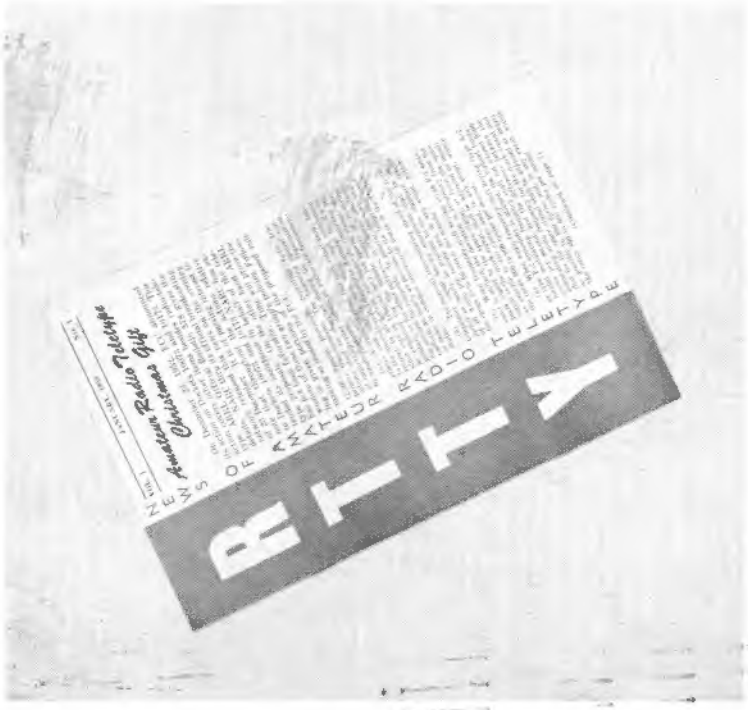
RTTY



THE STORY OF THE RTTY BULLETIN

NEWS OF AMATEUR RTTY

NOVEMBER, 1958
25 Cents
Vol. 6, No. 11

HORSE TRADES

This page of the Bulletin is for use of amateurs who have RTTY EQUIPMENT FOR SALE OR TRADE and those looking for equipment to buy or trade. It is a free service and may be the means of getting someone on the air.

RTTY, Inc.
372 WEST WARREN WAY
Arcadia, California
Return Postage Guaranteed

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FOR SALE: 0-5B/FR FSK exciters **W6CTG**
FOR SALE: Model 15, rough but prints, cheap **W4NYF**
FOR SALE: Model 1A Keyboard perf., clean **W4NYF**
WANTED: Model 26 Manual **W8GIG**
FOR SALE: FRA Terminal Unit **W6OGB**
FOR SALE: Tape Equipment **W6WIS**
FOR SALE: FGC — Terminal Unit **W6WIS**
FOR SALE: AN/FGC-1 TU with Manulsand Spares, Patch Cords, etc. **K6KFF**
FOR SALE: AUTO-MATE 26s **W9UE**
WANTED: Kleinschmidt Equipment **W9UE**
FOR SALE: 1958 RTTY Call Books ..... **RTTY**

THE STORY OF THE RTTY BULLETIN

ROBERT WEITBRECHT, W6NRM

Our bulletin-journal, RTTY, has been in existence since January 1953 and thus far some 70 issues have appeared. Many ideas, circuits, developments, and proposals appeared in this publication and as a result it has done much to foster and encourage the growth of the present radioteletypewriter phase of our grand hobby of Amateur Radio. Not to be overlooked are the various human-interest items such as "Tape-off-the-floor," news, hamfest pictures featuring RTTY in operation, and individual station photos. The Horse Trades section is another feature which has aided in procurement of machines, components, and other sundry items needed in RTTY equipment.

The editorship of this bulletin—now nearly six years old and thus far the only adequate publication of its kind—has resided in the capable hands of Merrill L. Swan. Not only handling the difficult and time-demanding task as editor, Merrill takes care of voluminous mail from all over the world, as well as actively operating his amateur radio station W6AEE on various RTTY frequencies. And all these activities are in addition to his numerous doings as IRE officer, manager of Quality Control Division of Cannon Electric Company (manufacturers of high-quality connectors and plugs), etc.

And his wife Margaret is indeed a "helpmate" in all his labors. For instance she handles the mechanical operation involved in addressing, stamping, and sorting some thousand copies of each issue.

Finally we should mention Fletch Hantke —W6DEO—the printer who has made it possible for us to have each and all issues of RTTY printed. The work is done at cost—even sometimes at a loss, and Fletch, Merrill, and others have to make up out of their own pockets.

The accompanying photographs show how each issue of RTTY is formed. Truly a task for Merrill and his associates! We, the members of the RTTY-world, salute you, Merrill, for "a job well-done." And may you continue actively in RTTY for many years to come!

(Editor's Note: For some time, I have wanted to let our readers know what is involved in putting out the bulletin, and that it is a *hobby* and not a commercial venture. The fine photographs are by Bob, W6NRM.)

BEHIND THE GEEN KEYS

By Don Wiggins, W4EHU

FLORIDA ACTIVITY . . .

Allen, W4IYP of San Mateo (near Palatka) has his Model 26 on the air. His first contact was a KL7 on 15 meters! Allen is FSK'ing an ARC-5 VFO and has a homebrew TU using width coils as filters.

W4BI/A4BI, MARS director for Florida District 2, got a Model 15 which turned out to have a broken frame! Brownie got a new frame for it and has torn the typing unit down and rebuilt it.

Brownie also has built a W4-TJU type converter and a Chinese copy of Press Wireless crystal-controlled exciter. The FSK is done with a 200 kc. oscillator which beats with a crystal in a balanced mixer to get up to the desired frequency. Also by substituting a VFO for the crystal ordinary VFO operation is obtained. Sounds real slick!

W4AYV, Nat, is getting around in a wheelchair after fracturing his hip. He was going great guns with the old keyboard when his final power transformer gave up! What next?

Bill, K4PAE, one of our youngest RTTY'ers, is now a freshman at the University of Florida, taking electrical engineering. Bill will have to wait for holidays to play with his Model 26. Good luck with your studies, Bill!

Your Editor, Merrill — W6AEE — gathers in contributed manuscripts, read letters, answers mail from all over the world.

Where the typesetter sets up type by linotype or other means, arranges type castings as shown, and proofs are run off. Sometimes Bert, W6CL, does this work when the company is hard pressed.

The accepted manuscripts go to Hantke & Ford, the printer in downtown Los Angeles.

Fletch, W6DEO — the owner and operator of the print shop.

The resulting negatives are placed in another easel with specail sensitized material which form the final printing plates for the printing press.

RTTY Magazine goes to press! This is called "offset printing," a method extensively used for small-volume printing of periodicals, circulars, bulletins, and the like.

After formation into issues by mechanical means, Fletch delivers the boxful of some 1500 copies to Merrill where as shown he is removing some issues for addressing.

Cranking the Addressograph is only one job — the editor checks the address-plates for change-in address, expired subscriptions, and the like — to make sure that each and every issue of RTTY counts for everyone.

The "Post Office Department" at work — introducing Margaret, a faithful and loving "help-mate" of Merrill's — licking stamps for the 1000-odd copies of each issue. (Note the sponge to help with the lick-problem — you want a taste in your mouth otherwise???)

Having gotten all the latest issues of RTTY to the post office, and all mail answered — W6AEE gets on the air to keep up with the latest news, stories, and scandals via the RTTY air-lanes.

"THE LITTLE NCARTS DINNER MEETING"

A dinner-meeting was arranged at the Fisherman's Grotto in San Francisco on Thursday, September 18th as a sort of impromptu celebration for our friends Bud and Mary Schulz — W6CG and K6OWQ — during their vacation visit to the Bay area. Also present were Bob and Gin Unsworth W6MTJ and W6LFF, "Bart" and Ruth Bartlett W6OWP and W6SXJ, and Bob Weitbrecht W6NRM. A most delicious seafood dinner was had and afterwards discussions around the dinner table were held for several hours on a variety of subjects of interest. Such topics as 15-meter conditions to the Pacific area, beam antennas versus ground-plane verticals, propagation problems from some bay-area QTH's, the tradition of "QSL cards-by-mail," bell-break operation for two and three stations, etc., were covered.

We have some active trans-Pacific RTTY stations—Cas KR6AK, Eric VK3KF, Bruce ZL1WB, and George KH6EM; the two Alaskans Nick and Geri KL7MZ-KL7ALZ — and some wonderful and enjoyable RTTY QSO's are in progress on around the 21080 kc spot most every evening. Cas, out in Okinawa, has had an old standby in Bud W6CG who for many months has nourished him through the lean and hungry summer months when nobody else would make much effort to "dig in" for the weak signals. And Eric the Aussie has been on-the-air with a borrowed Model 15 for some time now, and many fine RTTY QSO's have resulted with various stations on the mainland. Bruce, who has recently gotten home, has already put his gift items on-the-air, and is indeed making up for lost time. And the Hawaiian and the Alaskans are regularly heard on RTTY.

These trans-Pacific stations have excellent signals into the Bay area. At least W6NRM is able to print any one or other of these stations with highly satisfactory results using a ground-plane vertical. However some of the other stations nearby, even though equipped with beam antennas or the like, are experiencing difficulties due no doubt to their particular QTH's—with hills blocking the view to the west. Bob gets surprising results with only a simple triode-mixer fed by crystal oscillator feeding into a BC 348 receiver, and this stable setup is able to reach down into the prevailing noise-level.

Talks were held on other subjects. "The importance of sending confirmation (QSL) cards by mail was emphasized even only to perpetuate one of Amateur Radio's traditions." An adaptation of the popular Bell-Break system was discussed—this modification being to permit a third station to carry signals between two regular bell-break equipped stations that could be as much as half-way around the world. The serious propagation problem would be thus minimized by employment of this third or "intermediary" station equipped with two receivers and two transmitters working on two separate (bands) frequencies, and the usual bellbrake relay then transposes communications between the two bands.

The meeting broke up and some of us went over to Bob W6MTJ's place to admire some of his newest Model 15's and 19 arrayed in a row in the living room — these machines that he had been assembling and painting. A little time was spent inhaling some drinks and pop and then at midnight the tired people went their ways for homes. And, of course the ladies had a wonderful time on their usual feminine subjects. (Oops, here come a rain of women's shoes? Anyhow we all had a grand time.)

Subscription Rate $2.75 Per Year

RTTY is the Official Publication of the

RTTY Society of Southern California

and is published for the benefit of all RTTY Amateurs and Experimenters

Permission to copy is granted provided credit is given.

For Information Regarding the Society Contact the Following:

W6AEE — Merrill Swan
W6SCQ — Lewis Rogerson

For Traffic Net Information:
W6FLW W6IZJ

For "RTTY" Information:
W6DEO W6AEE

"I have just put some finishing touches on the new Terminal Unit. Got the meters mounted in the silly thing, and the decals on the panel. Even found some "Olde English" scrip to put my own call letters in . . . Don't know whether they will stay on or not. Haven't sealed the decals. This Bill Gates is an absolute genius. Yes sir. He came up with an AFC discriminator that is a real jewel. Which, considering your rig is quite a job. Hallicrafters indeed! Incidentally we are going to take this rig up to Chicago for the Convention, and give a demonstration of a Collins receiver in the Hallicrafter factory. I think that, in order to keep in one piece and in good there, that I shall explain that AFC is an absolute necessity with a 75-A-4 receiver . . . Bob WOYKZ."

— 0 —

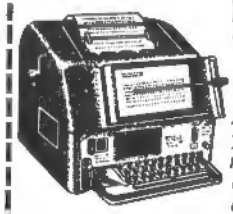
"Just making a quick transit thru the Canal and was very pleased to come here, from a long trip, and find three issues of 'RTTY' waiting for me. I had, sadly, thought that you had decided to give up the magnificent effort, and call 'RTTY' off as per the announcement. But as I received the June, July and August issues and realized that you were still in business — golly I'm for it! Still fighting the equipment that I have, and while I'm getting about 80/85% copy, I want to improve it more before I shift it ashore and set it up at home. We're due for an overhaul about the first of November and, I understand, that we will be given a complete new AC installation. More power and better regulation . . . I think that this has been my major trouble all along but it's a tough job to get all of this gear ashore for testing and back aboard when we're only in for 18 to 24 hours. Give my 73 to Buck, W6VPC next time you work him and tell him that I'll landline phone next time we're in S.F. and perhaps he can come over for chow aboard . . . 73 James E. Quinn."

— 0 —

In reply to your letter dated July 22, we enclose copy of a recent advertisement offering teletype machines.

With regard to prices, would you kindly insert to forward all inquiries to our firm where we will give special price consideration to Amateur Teletype Networks.

American Teletype Parts Corp.



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"Thanks for sending me the RTTY Call Book. Sure save time and is very handy thing for me to carry with me when traveling. Was going to say 'around the country,' but must now say 'around the world.' Going to Israel this week via Rome . . . 73 Byron, W2JTP."

— 0 —

Many thanks for sending the copy of your new RTTY Call Book. A nice job, and I expect it will be greatly appreciated by the gang.

I wish you could have made the National Convention. There was an excellent RTTY Session and Dinner. W3PYW did the lead-off job, summarizing good basic teletype practices — and covering common difficulties as applicable to the initial setup and existing installations that might be subjected to improvement. It was excellent.

W2JAV had an interesting demonstration and valuable talk on circuitry. He gave special attention to the limitations and precautions in the use of relays. (With a scope and 22 milli-second signal generator the effect of introducing various amounts of distortion was neatly portrayed. Relay "bounce" was examined, and the technique of using relays to cure transients. This followed a magnetic tape presentation of signals with various kinds of crud and as transmitted on the air!) W3CRO, responsive to a good expression of interest undertook to completely tear down a Model 26 and re-assemble same (next morning) to illustrate the proper handling and treatment. At the dinner Don Martin of Collins was the principal speaker.

About 50 at the RTTY Wash'n meeting and 40 to 50 at the banquet. Swell gang, and no politics . . . Clay was there, and Beep but not Byron. Frank and Phil were wonderful and W3CRO as you know is "the best." . . . Convention attendance over-all registration ran right about 2,000; 850 at big concluding banquet. 14 kinds of meetings and cross sections: vhf and dx were larger than ssb; YLs were well entertained; novices, fcc, military, Contests, mobile, etc. all got innings.

It will take a week to catch up on s l e e p. Excellent exhibits and coordination and adherence to meeting times at the Convention. . . .

The latest booklet Operating an Amateur Radio Station reflects these appointment availabilities, by specific mention of RTTY. I am glad that W1ZXA brought up the subject so that any RTTY member-operator who can show consistent activity may know more about the opportunities in this direction. We'll be happy to send booklets explaining appointments and blanks to be sent by the individual to his SCM, if the post one undertakes is mentioned to us (OBS, ORS, OO, OES) to help RTTYers receive these recognitions and spread the "pages off the printer" to more and more amateurs within the fraternity. . . . Ed. W1BDI.

— 0 —

"Thanks for the back issues of RTTY bulletin, they have been very helpful. I visited Ed Handy W1BDI and he was very helpful. He's a grand guy. I have my 26 printing OK now, and just a little more work and I will be sending. Hope to run across you on 20 meters some day . . . 73 George W1MHF."

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"I've been quite busy working on a new converter and have printed you and some of the other west coast stations recently on forty meters and also on eighty. Keep up the good work on the RTTY magazine. I'm anxious to hear more about the phase shift RTTY. Be looking for you again in the RTTY contest . . . 73 Burton, K9BRL."

— 0 —

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— 0 —

"Got my first printer in February 1952 and after 6½ years of trying to get on the air with RTTY, I haven't given up yet. Maybe I will make it sometime in the next 6½ years . . . Paul W3NNV."

"Just a short note to tell you what happened to me, and so you can put a word in RTTY so some of my friends that I left behind can catch up with me. Have been issued new call K5SPU, and so must learn to type it without faltering or garbling. I left the Telephone company on July 21st, and started to work with CAA at Kirkland AFB here in Albuquerque . . . I have the station working well enough to copy RTTY and can transmit but don't have any good antennas up yet . . . Sam, ex W7JLF."

— 0 —

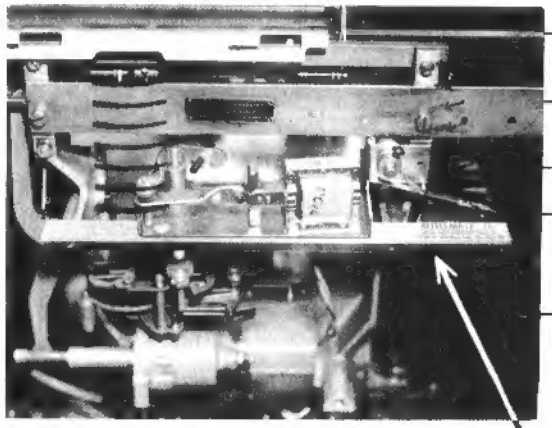
"In addition to the Model 104 printer, we are working on a number of related equipments and specially modified versions. The former include a tape reader (highly minaturized), and various transistorized switching and keying devices . . . TELEPRINTER CORPORATION."

— 0 —

"RTTY has had to raise its rates to 2.75 pear year due to increase in postage rates. Air Mail rates are now 3.25 per year . . ."

— 0 —

"Guess I forgot to mention the call is W8FEU. Hope to be on six and two meters with AFSK and FSK. Preferably if I can find anyone close who is interested. Rig is a KW on both bands. Will be on 7mcs as soon as the other gear is set up. . . . 73 W8FEU."



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